

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 2, line 11 and ends on line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Hardware components, in contrast, have a determined functionality, which is hardwired in special chips, or integrated circuits (IC's). Examples of such are ASIC's (Application Specific Integrated Circuits) or SMD's (Surface Mounted Devices). These devices are very application-specific and can, for example, execute an FFT (Fast Fourier Transformation), which is very calculations intensive, very quickly. The disadvantage of these hardware components is that they are only flexible to a slight degree and normally must be replaced, in order to achieve a changing of the functionality.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 2, line 25 and ends on page 3, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Each field device is normally composed of various hardware components, which determine the functionality of the field device. Different field devices, for instance Coriolis mass flowmeters or electromagnetic flowmeters (MID's), have entirely different hardware components. Even for one and the same field device, for example a Coriolis mass flowmeter, the hardware components for communications can differ, for example. For connection to a Profibus, a Profibus module is needed, for connection to a Foundation Fieldbus, a FF ~~module~~ ^{- module} Foundation Fieldbus, etc. Depending on whether the field device is to deliver a frequency, pulse or current signal, corresponding hardware components have to be provided.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 8, line 13 and ends on line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the aid of reconfigurable logic devices, it is possible to configure hardware components, and, consequently, to change the functionality and behavior easily. The hardware components can, in this way, be adapted to various tasks and functionalities. Inputs and outputs, I/O's, can be easily defined. Especially, it is ~~it~~ possible therewith

to define and amend function blocks, e.g. Flexible Function Blocks (Foundation Fieldbus Organization), or Profibus[®] function blocks (Profibus[®] Organization) easily with respect both to hardware and software. The function block (Flexible Function Block or ProfibusR) is loaded into the reconfigurable logic device and generates its I/O's itself. In this way, a logic device LD can be used for various functionalities, just by loading the corresponding function blocks.